

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Headline: BEC Challenges Paradise Summit PUD
Butte County, CA – August 9, 2010 - Body:

Butte Environmental Council (BEC) has submitted two letters to Butte County Supervisors and staff challenging the proposed Paradise Summit Planned Unit Development (PUD). The PUD for 312 residential units is situated at the outskirts of Paradise in a known migratory deer herd area, on properties with a 20-acre minimum zoning overlay. The properties also have low density Agricultural Residential zoning and land use designations. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that the Board of Supervisors is to consider accepting at their August 10 meeting does not adequately address the impacts on land, air, water, species, economics, or public safety as relates to the proposed subdivision map. The map would combine 8 rural properties. The large cul-de-sac of homes proposed for the canyon rim above the West Branch of the Feather River is in an area that is a high fire danger zone with access to a singular arterial road. Pentz Road has demonstrated its insufficient capacity for fire evacuation for Paradise residents in recent years.

The PUD is not proposed to be annexed to the adjacent Town of Paradise, and the necessary water supply for full buildout is not available. Groundwater is unreliable in this area and has not been studied for the proposed PUD. Water is expected to be piped up from the Oroville Reservoir to a treatment plant that does not currently exist. The environmental and public approvals for the infrastructure for the pipelining and treatment of water from the Oroville Reservoir have yet to be done. To rezone land for this many residential units at this time would be negligent.

The PUD is suburban sprawl which might be unnecessary. The proposal is for an inefficient consumption of energy that would unnecessarily contribute to air pollution. BEC urges the Board of Supervisors to reject the proposed change in land use and zoning, to deny the subdivision map, and to declare the environmental document insufficient, failing to adequately specify performance standards for sustainable economic development.

BEC has been protecting Butte County's land, air and water since 1975 through environmental advocacy and education. For more information about our work and programs, visit our website at www.becnet.org

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